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**TESTIMONY REGARDING HB-5521  
AN ACT REQUIRING LICENSURE OF MASTER'S-LEVEL PSYCHOLOGISTS**

Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter and Honorable members of the Public Health Committee,

I am in support of proposed HB-5521, AN ACT REQUIRING LICENSURE OF MASTER'S LEVEL PSYCHOLOGISTS, with minor modifications.

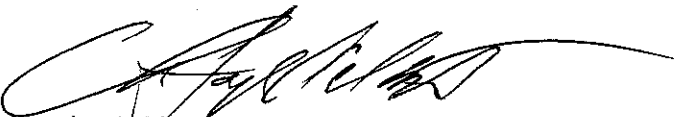
The rationale for licensure is threefold: First, to assure quality service delivery to clients who choose Master's level therapy by holding standards of licensure that must be held to. Second, to make equal with other Master's level behavioral health licensure (LCSW, LPC, LMFT) thereby allowing for parity in work, pay and insurance reimbursement. Third, to keep the educational and professional integrity of the degree and its ethics of practice.

There is some concern from the Connecticut Psychological Association that clients may be confused if they see a Master's level licensed psychologist versus a PhD or PsyD licensed psychologist. This is simply not the case as credentials are placed after the name of the practitioner that would not include a PhD or PsyD. For example, as a Nationally Certified Psychologist (NCP) and a Board Certified Clinical Psychotherapist (BCCP) my credentials are clearly articulated. Licensure as a Master's level Psychologist may be abbreviated as LMP or other term such as Licensed Behavioral Practitioner (LBP) as with other states such as Oklahoma. The point is licensure for those with a Master's degree in Psychology, as the Northamerican Association of Masters Psychologists (NAMP), the certifying agency of our profession recommends. We simply do not fit the LPC or other licensable clinical specialty. Our education and training does not permit application and licensure under any other title.

Currently there are at least 25 other states that license Master's level psychologists. I have included a copy information pertaining to those state licensures with my written testimony. As you will see, licensure of Master's level Psychologists is a growing trend in mental health service delivery and Connecticut is unfortunately lagging behind. I am hoping that we move forward.

As proposed HB-5521 stands now the language calls for required licensure. A suggested amendment might read to permit licensure rather than require it. This would ascertain that not all persons with Master's degrees in Psychology need licensure if they do not want it. Moreover, if title using the word "Psychologist" be amended to appease concerns by the Connecticut Psychological Association I would be amenable to Licensed Clinical Psychotherapist or similar term allowing licensure of those holding a Master's degree in Psychology and meeting the other criteria in the proposed bill.

Thank you for your time and attention to this pressing matter.



Christopher L. Montes, MA, NCP, FDC, BCCP



# Northamerican Association Of Masters In Psychology

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## MASTERS LICENSURE INFORMATION

There are currently twenty-five states which license masters - level psychologists to practice psychology, either independently or under continuing supervision. Other states are moving forward or considering legislative initiatives.

**\*\*** Nine states currently license masters - level psychologists to practice independently under various titles of licensure as described below

**Alaska:** Psychological Associate

**Arkansas:** Psychological Examiner (*New Statute*)

**Kansas:** Licensed Clinical Psychotherapist

**Kentucky:** Licensed Psychological Practitioner

**Oklahoma:** Licensed Behavioral Practitioner

**Oregon:** Psychological Associate

**Tennessee:** Licensed Senior Psychological Examiner

**Vermont:** Psychologists - Masters

**West Virginia:** Psychologist

**\*\*** At least six states have unsupervised practice for masters - level school psychologists under various titles of licensure

**Indiana:** School Psychologist

**Ohio:** School Psychologist

**Texas:** Licensed Specialist in School Psychology

**Virginia:** School Psychologist

**West Virginia:** School Psychologist Independent Practitioner

**Wisconsin:** Private Practice School Psychologist

**The following states have some type of licensure recognition for masters - level psychologists**

<b>STATE</b>		<b>TITLE</b>
Alabama		Psychological Technician
Alaska	*	Psychological Associate
Arkansas	**	Psychological Examiner
California		Psychological Assistant
Delaware		Registered Psychological Assistant
Kansas		Licensed Masters Level Psychologist
Kansas	*	Licensed Clinical Psychotherapist
Kentucky		Psychological Associate
Kentucky	*	Licensed Psychological Practitioner
Maine		Psychological Examiner
Maryland		Registered Psychological Associate
Michigan		Masters Limited License in Psychology
Minnesota		Licensed Psychological Practitioner
Nevada		Psychological Assistant
New Mexico		Psychologist Associate
North Carolina		Licensed Psychological Associate
Ohio	***	School Psychologist
Oklahoma		Psychological Technician
Oklahoma	****	Licensed Behavioral Practitioner
Oregon	*	Psychologist Associate
Tennessee		Psychological Examiner
Tennessee	*	Licensed Senior Psychological Examiner
Texas		Licensed Psychological Associate
Texas	***	Licensed Specialist in School Psychology
Vermont	*	Psychologist - Master
Virginia	***	School Psychologist
West Virginia	*	Psychologist
West Virginia	***	School Psychologist Independent Practitioner
West Virginia	***	School Psychologist
Wisconsin	***	Private Practice School Psychologist
Wyoming		Psychological Practitioner
Wyoming	***	Specialist in School Psychology
	*	Independent Practice
	**	Independent Practice – ( <i>New Statute</i> )
	***	Unsupervised Practice for Masters level School Psychologists
	****	Independent Practice – Governed by the State Dept. of Health

The **A**ssociation of **S**tate and **P**rovincial **P**sychology **B**oards (**ASPPB**) governs the state licensing boards and can provide details on each states' licensure requirements

**[www.asppb.org](http://www.asppb.org)**

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